

Message Text

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S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: INDIAN CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS ABOUT INDIA

1. FOLLOWING WAS PREPARED FOR USE AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING
BUT NO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT INDIA. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON
PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE AS APPROPRIATE.

2. QUESTION: WHAT IS OUR COMMENT ON THE INDIAN CRITICISM
OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN INDIA?

ANSWER: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS UNDERLINE THE TRADITIONAL
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AMERICAN PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORMS. WE
THEREFORE FIND THE SHARP INDIAN REACTION SURPRISING. HOW-
EVER, WE SEE NO NEED FOR FURTHER PUBLIC EXCHANGES. THE
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND THE INDIAN STATEMENT SPEAK FOR

THEMSELVES.

3. QUESTION: WHAT EFFECT IS THIS GOING TO HAVE ON RELATIONS?

ANSWER: AS I SAID, WE SEE NO REASON TO CONTINUE THE EXCHANGE. OUR TWO POSITIONS ARE CLEARLY ON THE RECORD.

4. QUESTION: WHY HAVE WE NOW STARTED COMMENTING ON INDIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:

-- ANSWER: MY READING IS: THE PRESIDENT WAS SIMPLY UNDERLINING OUR PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORMS. THAT IS NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY.

5. QUESTION: DO WE EXPECT THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO COME HERE IN OCTOBER?

-- ANSWER: WE HAVE NO REASON TO ASSUME A CHANGE OF PLANS.

6. QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO INDIA?

ANSWER: WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. HIS SCHEDULE IS VERY FULL THROUGH THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

7. QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT AID TO INDIA? WHERE DOES THAT STAND?

-- ANSWER: ON THE FOOD AID SIDE, THE INDIANS HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PL 480 TITLE I AND WE ARE CONSIDERING THE MATTER. WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, OUR FY 76 PROPOSALS INCLUDE \$76 MILLION FOR A POSSIBLE INDIA PROGRAM. THE CONGRESS IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING THE AID LEGISLATION AND WE WILL HAVE TO SEE HOW THIS COMES OUT.

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8. PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW CARRIED ONLY IN CHICAGO SUN-TIMES. INDIAN REACTION TO INTERVIEW CARRIED IN BACKPAGES OF POST AND NY TIMES. KISSINGER

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